



# Grüss Gott

## Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses Club

### February 2003 Newsletter



Grüss Gott,

Well, here we are already into February. How this Board Year has flown! While we are on the downhill side, we still have plenty of fun and exciting things planned for everyone. The big news is that we are in the final countdown to this years Spring Bazaar. The bazaar this year will be March 21-23. This is always an exciting event here in Stuttgart, and takes lots and lots of volunteers to make it successful. We are asking everyone to help as much as you are able. Because of your donations of time, baked goods, etc, we are able to provide over 60,000 dollars in funding for various organizations in our military community. We give everything from scholarships, to car seats, and assist organizations from Girl Scouts to school groups. Without this funding many organizations would probably not be able to survive. So, when you are approached to assist in some way with the OCSC Spring Bazaar, please remember why you are being asked and be generous. It is always a lot of fun as well and a good way to make new friends. Everyone who volunteers will get a chance to shop on Thursday evening before all the crowds and get first shot at all the great items available.

We have some great functions planned including Crystal Bingo (always the highlight of the year) in April and some informative programs as well. Our trips and tours chairwoman is planning some fun outings for us for the remainder of the year too.

So if you are having a little bit of cabin fever from all this dreary weather, come on out to the OCSC functions and see what we have to offer. I think we have something for everyone and we look forward to having you join us.

Until next month, Tchuss,

Donni Hodgkins



### **OCSC Governing Board Roster**

President:	Donni Hodgkins
1st Vice President:	Lisa Hudson
2nd Vice President:	Bonnie Collins
3rd Vice President:	Becky Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Donna Riehl
Recording Secretary:	Sandy Padrick
Operations Treasurer:	Lori Roop
Welfare Treasurer:	Linda Caton
Welfare:	D'Lynn Phelps
Parliamentarian:	Bobby Kellner
Membership:	Diane Murtha
Co-Reservations:	Londa Gemeinhardt
Co-Reservations:	Kelly Roth
Luncheons:	Liz McKendrick
Programs:	Vacant
Hospitality:	Valerie Rydell
Bazaar Chair:	Sherri Funk
Ways & Means:	Pattie Jones
	Deann Reff
Newsletter:	Kelley Otto
Publicity:	Tracy Neal
Special Events:	Alisa Armstead
	Cordelia Williams
Historian:	Sara Kopf
Tours:	Therese DeSanto
Thrift Shop Liason:	Mary Ellen Lyon



### **Honorary & Advisory Board Members**

Honorary President:	Marilyn Wald
Honorary Vice President:	Rebecca Sylvester
Senior Air Force Advisor:	Pamela Rassmussen
Senior Army Advisor:	Madelaine Darden
Senior Navy Advisor:	Susan Jaskot
Senior Marine Advisor:	Gail Baczkowski
Senior Civilian Advisor:	Jennie Allen
6th ASG Advisor:	Iris Stubblefield

The website is up and running! We now have the newsletter in two formats for everyone's convenience. If you would like to make a submission to the newsletter you can email me at [ottok@6asg.army.mil](mailto:ottok@6asg.army.mil). All submissions must be in no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. If you have any questions about content policy please feel free to contact me by email or phone 0711-658-6202.

Kelley Otto  
OCSC Newsletter Editor

### **BOARD VACANCY**

We desperately need a Programs Chairperson. This position is an important part of our board. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please contact:

Donni Hodgkins  
0711-674-2091

### **HOSPITALITY**

As members of OCSC, we are very important to one another. In light of that, we would like to remember each other on important occasions. If you know of anyone who is ill, injured, had a death in the family, recently given birth, or experienced any other momentous or sad occasion, please let me know, so that I can send a card. Please call Valerie Rydell at 0711-674-0770 or email rydellm@aol.com.

Valerie Rydell  
Hospitality Chair



A special thank you from the 3rd VP side of the house, under which Trips and Tours falls, to **Vicki Kelly**! With the world events a little uncertain right now and the euro rate down so low, trips are not only hard to plan but VERY expensive! We're going to try to empower you, the member, with information from trips other members take. If you didn't get the great email from Vicki about Barcelona, please just send an email to me, Becky Davis, at [becky.davis2@us.army.mil](mailto:becky.davis2@us.army.mil) and I'll be sure to forward it to you! We also have tips for a visit to Rome! Please feel free to forward these emails to new people coming into the community!

Bring a 6 pack of soda or water to the February or March luncheon to be used for the bazaar and receive a FREE raffle ticket!

Hope to see you all at the luncheon!  
Becky Davis  
3rd VP



### THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Patch Thrift Shop Welcomes You!

The New Year is off to a great start for the Patch Thrift Shop! Come in and see our wonderful new items, and also consider consigning some items to make room for more treasures (the BAZAAR is coming soon!). Also, for those of you PCS'ing, some packers do not pack batteries, and the Thrift Shop can always use donated batteries! The next Friday open date will be 1 February. We are located in the lower level of Washington Center and are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00am until 2:00 pm., consignments accepted until 1:00 pm. (same hours for the Saturday open dates). For more information call DSN 480-5510 or CIV 680-5510.



Do you like being "in the know"? Do you like to passing out money to help wonderful causes? Do you like being part of a



### **WELFARE REPORT**

#### December Disbursements:

ACS for the Holiday Food Certificate Program

Model United Nations (PHS).

#### January Disbursements:

Stuttgart Wellness Center

Navy Marine Corps Guard Residence Foundation



### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We have 196 members! There are several additions since the roster was printed; a list of additions will be available at the January dinner. Also, if you have not picked up your roster please do so in January. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact me to arrange delivery of your roster.

New members are always welcome and membership dues are now only \$15.00! Applications are available at the ACS, Thrift Shop and our website and at all OCSC functions. Completed applications can be mailed to me: Diane Mutha, Membership Chairman (address below) and on

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military wives...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too. The funny thing about it, is most military wives don't consider themselves different from other wives. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other wives get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military wives get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other wives decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military wives decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces. Other wives have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military wives have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other wives say good-bye to their husband for a business trip and know they won't see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military wives say good-bye to their deploying husbands and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other wives, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military wives will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other wives get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military wives get used to saying "good-bye" to friends made the last two years.

Other wives worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military wives worry about whether their child will be accepted in yet another new school next year and whether that school will be the worst in the city...again.

Other wives can count on spouse participation in special events, such as birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child. Military wives only count on each other; because they realize that the Flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other wives put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military wives wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other wives worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military wives worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral. Other wives are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it, the card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today." A military wife IS the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military wives are better or worse than other wives are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military wives than is asked of other wives. And I will say, without hesitation, that military wives pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher. Dying in service to our country isn't near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them. God bless our military wives for all they freely give. And God bless America.

By Colonel Steven Arrington



### GET READY FOR SPRING!

I know, it's only February, but spring will be here soon and it is a very exciting time for the OCSC and YOU!

The OCSC has been planning one of the biggest shopping extravaganzas in the community this year, its Bazaar time. Over 75 international vendors will come to your back door March 21, 22, and 23 with something for everyone!

A big thanks to Sherri Funk, our Bazaar Chair. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at the February or March luncheon and you can be included in the VIP shopping event on March 20. You can also bring a 6 pack of soda or water to the February or March luncheon and receive "one free" OCSC luncheon raffle ticket good for the luncheon that you attend. Baked goods are needed for this event, so please contact Lisa Hudson at 0711-620-4568. This is the event that raises most of our money that we donate to the Stuttgart community, so DON'T BE SHY, come on out and join the fun. I hope that you all have a great February, and remember that the Patch Thrift Shop is there to serve this community, also. Our profits support many organizations, and your donations and consignments are the reason. Our Welfare team does a terrific job of distributing this money, thanks to D'Lynn. Also, when you shop at the Ways and Means table at all OCSC functions, you are contributing to the community. Those ladies, Patty and Deann, do a great job.

Hope to see you all at the OCSC events!

Bonnie Collins

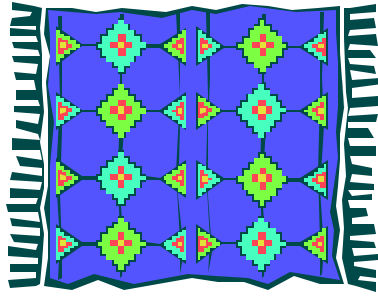
2nd VP



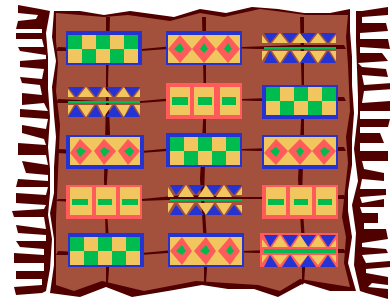
The remaining OCSC events for this year are scheduled for the following dates and times:

February 18	10:30 am	Luncheon
March 4	9:30 am	Board meeting
March 11	10:30 am	Luncheon
March 21-23		Spring bazaar
April 6	9:30 am	Board meeting
April 15	7:00 pm	Crystal Bingo
May 6	9:30 am	Board meeting
May 20	10:30 am	Luncheon





To Know About



All You Ever

Turkish

The OCSC will be hosting our favorite Turkish rug vendor Topkapi during the February luncheon. They will provide information on how to select a quality rug, different styles, and how to tell hand made vs. machine made. They will also be available to answer all of your questions!

**Date: Tuesday, 18 February 2003**

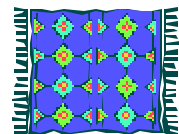
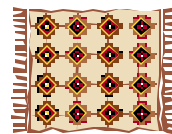
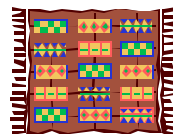
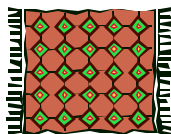
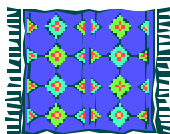
**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Place: Swabian Special Events Center**

**Price: \$10.00**

**Menu: Chicken Gumbo, Greek Salad,  
Bread, and Dessert**

**Please RSVP to Kelly Roth, 0711-620-4862, or  
Londa Gemeinhardt, 0711-120-8461,  
gemeinhard@aol.com, no later than February  
11th.**



Attention Private Org. Members. If your organization is looking for funds, just complete and submit a Welfare Application to the OCSC Welfare Chair. Welfare Applications are available at the Thrift Shop or you may contact D'Lynn Phelps at 0711-120-8938, [dlynnp@hotmail.com](mailto:dlynnp@hotmail.com). We are always happy to help our community!



## **OCSC ON-LINE RESERVATION POLICY**

**OCSC luncheons** are held on the third Tuesday of each month except for a few special events which will be appropriately announced. Reservations must be made for all OCSC functions. There may be other events where reservations are necessary. A reminder will be in the monthly issue of the "Grüss Gott" OCSC newsletter. Guests are welcome to attend and are eligible for door prizes and chance drawings, however, International Bingo is for OCSC members only. Infant pre-crawlers are welcome at all OCSC Luncheons.

**RESERVATION/CANCELLATION:** A committee has been appointed to take reservations. Reservations must be made by Tuesday preceding the event. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness by calling only between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Should you need to cancel your reservation; you must do so before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event. **Unless your reservation is cancelled by e-mail or phone before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event, you, the OCSC member, will be responsible for paying the full cost of the event.** If the cost is not paid, the member will not be allowed to attend the Bingo event and loss of membership privileges will be enforced until payment is made in full.

### **To Make Reservations Call or E-mail:**

Londa Gemeinhardt 0711-1208461

[gemeinhard@aol.com](mailto:gemeinhard@aol.com)

or

Kelly Roth 0711-6204862



### **Permanent Reservation Policy:**

Permanent Reservations can be made at any OCSC function. To put your name on the permanent reservation list you must pay **\$12** towards your **last** luncheon up front. If you aren't able to attend a luncheon, you must cancel prior to the deadline. If you don't cancel, an email message or phone call will be sent to remind you to pay for your lunch. If you don't send payment for your lunch that you missed prior to that month's reservation deadline, your prepayment will be applied towards your lunch and your permanent reservations will be canceled. If the lunch that you miss is less than \$12 the difference will be considered a donation to the club. This new policy is to help you, the member keep from having to pay for multiple missed lunches!





Oooooooooo

# The Bazaar is coming... The Spring Bazaar is coming!

The OCSC Spring Bazaar Committee is working hard to bring to our community the biggest and best bazaar we have ever had. This will be the biggest spring bazaar in Germany with over 75 vendors. We have contracted with over 35 new vendors that have never been to Stuttgart, or haven't been here in many years, just so that you will have the best opportunity to find that certain something you've been looking for!

The Committee needs your help in several areas:

Volunteering to work before and during the bazaar. Contact:

Laurie Menzel 0711-440-8424 [lmenzel@att.net](mailto:lmenzel@att.net)

Cooking and providing drinks or water to the Hospitality stations. Contact:

Lisa Hudson 0711-620-4568 [hjksmom@aol.com](mailto:hjksmom@aol.com) or

Julie Ryan 0711-674-0740

(I believe if you bring a six pack of drinks or water to the Feb or March functions, you will get one extra luncheon raffle ticket for each six pack, free!)

Helping put up flyers and signs for Publicity. Contact:

Sue Dunham 07158-946-218 [susieq@topsurf.com](mailto:susieq@topsurf.com) or

Nicole Gard 0711-120-7696 [miknicgun@yahoo.com](mailto:miknicgun@yahoo.com)

If you've ever been to a big bazaar, you know how much work it takes to put one of these hummers on! We would certainly love to have your help! Any thing and any time you can give will benefit our club and our community! Anyone who would like to be an integral part of the 2004 Spring Bazaar – please, please, please, see Sherri Funk at one of the next functions.

As always, I remain,

Your devoted servant,

Sherri Funk

2003 Spring Bazaar Committee Chairperson

## OCSC Spring Bazaar Volunteer Information

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Group Affiliate\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer for the following times (please circle the date and time):

Day	<u>Times</u>			
<u>Set-up Days</u>				
Mon 3/17	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Tues 3/18	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Wed 3/19	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
Thu 3/20	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 -1830	1830 - 2100
<b>Bazaar</b>				
Fri 3/21	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - 1900	
Sat 3/22	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - 1900	
Sun 3/23	0930 - 1230	1230 - 1530	1530 - Finish	1700 - Finish
<u><b>Tear Down</b></u>				
Mon 3/24	0930 - 1230			

Area I would like to work(please circle) :

**Finance Office**

**Credit Cards**

**Volunteer Desk**

**Misc/Floater**

**Security**

### **Volunteer Coordinator contact information**

Laurie Menzel, (0711) 440-8424  
or email – lmenzel@att.net



### **TRIPS & TOURS**

**Due to the uncertainty of the current world situation, we have decided not to pursue other OCSC trips at this time. Once things have settled, OCSC will look at organizing future trips.**



**Patch High School Students and Families are invited to attend School House Antiques and Karen's Bears, Santa's and more things on Feb. 15 at Patch High School Forum from 10-3. Large Antique Desk available as raffle. Percentage of proceeds benefit Patch High School Yearbook.**

**Contact: Patch High School 0711-680-7191.**



### **HELPFUL WEB SITES FOR TAX SEASON:**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| * Internal Revenue Service         | <a href="http://www.irs.gov">http://www.irs.gov</a>                                       |
| * Federation of Tax Administrators | <a href="http://www.tax-admin.org/fta/link">http://www.tax-admin.org/fta/link</a>         |
| State Tax Information              |   |
| * Armed Forces Tax Guide           | <a href="http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf">http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf</a> |
| * Tax Planet                       | <a href="http://www.taxplanet.com">http://www.taxplanet.com</a>                           |



**Thank you OCSC!**

Another successful Army Family Action Plan, AFAP, conference has come and gone and it's time to thank those who played a part in its success. Thank you to the OCSC board for graciously allowing the AFAP Conference to be announced and advertised through the monthly newsletter. Events such as AFAP benefit from community groups such as OCSC in many ways one way in particular is through advertising. I look forward to possibly working more closely with the OCSC in the future in hopes of reaching even more participants for the '04 conference.

Sincerely,

Caroline Orama  
6<sup>th</sup> ASG AFAP Coordinator  
ACS

